3 July 1972

HW:

Regarding your suggestion that we get in touch with Hal and let him know that you've severed diplomatic relations with Gary and Larry P., we understand how you prefer not to write to him, now anyway.

We shall try to do this, but with this stipulation: we have very little contact with him these days, and prefer to wait until it can be worked in with another of the calls that one side or the other occasionally makes. No sweat, glad to do it, but we don't want to make him think that is the only reason for calling him. I realize you may have in mind getting word to him before Gary does, but that could be too late already. Anyway, we'll be ready at the first opening.

In this connection, you mention that we might tell him you may be consulted during the discovery stage by Williams in some litigation. I assume this means Edward Bennet Williams and the Demo suit against the GOP buggers. If not, better fill us in. If so, good idea, I'm sure Hal would be interested.

We share your idea that he may be out of things altogether, but for what reason we don't know and are reluctant to speculate, except that any signs he shows all point toward a change of interests and concerns, mostly economic. He's impressed that he's had his 40th birthday.

We have no indication that you asked him to check Cuban names when the Demo bugging story broke. We do have a copy of your 6/19 note to him asking about Harv Morgan, but no mention of Cubans. Harv is doing straight newscasting now in the afternoon.

He never mentions his failure to look into the books in the Pacific Avenue basement. I don't know how he feels about that, but personally I would be extremely reluctant to approach any situation that involves Jonn Christian, even remotely and potentially. The basement owner could feel responsible to Christian, and to no one else. What then ? Beyond this, I can offer no further thoughts. The question perhaps is whether Hal feels he could accomplish anything even if he tried. We simply don't know, and our relationship with him is such that we rarely ask him anything first, but pursue topics which he himself initiates. He is remarkably close-mouthed in some ways, so much so that from the beginning we have been careful to try never to seem like we're pressing him.

Anyway, we'll give him your word at the first opportunity that comes along and let you know his reaction if any.

Best,

jdw